IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of measuring the extent of resources provided by a second computer to a first computer in a distributed network, said method comprising the steps of:

(A)   associating a first trusted entity with the first computer;

(B)   associating a second trusted entity with the second computer;

(C)   receiving at a resource usage verification authority (RUVA) server, from the first trusted entity, information about an intended resource use;

(D)   providing a ticket, from said RUVA server to the first trusted entity, said ticket including at least portion of said information;

(E)   transmitting said ticket from the first trusted entity to the second trusted entity;

(F)   the second trusted entity modifying the ticket to produce a modified ticket, said modified ticket being based at least in part upon actual resources provided by said second computer to said first computer;

(G)   said second trusted entity transmitting said modified ticket to the first trusted entity;

(H)   said first trusted entity transmitting the modified ticket to the RUVA server; and

(I)   said RUVA server utilizing said ticket and said modified ticket to determine the extent of resources provided by the second computer to the first computer.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the resources provided by the second computer include at least one of provision of a file, provision of bandwidth, provision of CPU cycles, or provision of disk or memory storage.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the ticket issued by the RUVA server comprises at least one of a machine identification field, a field for a file name, a field for a hash of a file, a field for a randomly generated number, a weighting field, a time field, a value field, or a date field.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the RUVA server stores a copy of said ticket.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the second trusted entity validates the ticket by checking that the ticket has been signed by the RUVA server.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising said first trusted entity validating the ticket.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of the RUVA server authenticating the identity of the first trusted entity prior to issuing said ticket.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first trusted entity is a module incorporating authentication, encryption or data signing capabilities in data communication with a computing device.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the first trusted entity comprises a receipt request generator, receipt generator module, and receipt validation module.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of the RUVA server conducting a redundancy check.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the [[the]] redundancy check comprises determining whether a file being accessed by the first computer has already been downloaded by said first computer.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of modifying the ticket by the second trusted entity comprises at least signing or authenticating the ticket.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of the first trusted entity validating the signed ticket.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of modifying the ticket by the second trusted entity comprises adding details of the extent of resources shared by the second computer.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of said first trusted entity organizing a plurality of tickets into a record and communicating said record to the RUVA server.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of determining, from said record, the extent of resources provided by a plurality of second computers to a plurality of first computers and modifying a database to record the extent of resources provided by said plurality of second computers to said plurality of first computers.

17-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said RUVA server signs said ticket, the method further comprising the first trusted entity validating said signed ticket.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the second trusted entity validates the ticket.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the second trusted entity validates the ticket by checking for a signature from the RUVA server.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
said RUVA server authenticating the first trusted entity.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
allocating value to said second [[user]] computer based upon said determination of the extent of resources provided by the second user.

43. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said redundancy check comprises

a check that [[the]] a transaction being attempted by said first computer has not been repeated.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the redundancy check is performed prior to providing issuing said ticket.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of conducting the redundancy check comprises determining whether a file being accessed by the first computer has already been downloaded in whole or in part.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said redundancy check comprises

a check that a resource usage ticket has not already been issued for the same download.

47.   (Withdrawn) A method of measuring the extent of resources provided to a first computer by a second computer in a distributed network, said network including a resource usage verification authority (RUVA) server, said method comprising the steps of:

(A)   associating a first trusted entity with the first computer;

(B)   associating a second trusted entity with the second computer;

(C)   receiving at said RUVA server, from the first trusted entity, information about an intended resource use by said first computer;

(D)   said RUVA server providing a ticket to the first trusted entity, said ticket including at least portion of said information;

(E)   transmitting said ticket from the first trusted entity to the second trusted entity;

(F)   the second trusted entity modifying the ticket, said modification being based at least in part upon actual resource use;

(G)   said second trusted entity transmitting said modified ticket to the first trusted entity;

(H)   said first trusted entity transmitting the modified ticket to the RUVA server; and

(I)   said RUVA server utilizing said ticket and said modified ticket to determine the extent of resources provided by the second computer to the first computer; and

(J)   allocating value to said second user based upon said determination of the extent of resources provided by the second user.